

REMARKS

Claims 20, 22-27 and 29 are pending in this application. No claims have been added. No claims have been cancelled via this amendment. Therefore, after entry of this Amendment, claims 20, 23, and 29 will be pending.

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 26 and 27 are objected to because of informalities. The informalities have been corrected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 20, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al. (United States Publication 2002/0141479A1) in view of Shellhammer et al. (United States Patent Number 7,039,358). Applicants traverse these rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 26, 27, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al. (US Pub 2002/0141479 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Examiner cites Garcia-Luna-Aceves (page 5, 69th paragraph) as teaching:

“that it may be desirable to allow nodes exchanging data to continue hopping, such as in a multi-frequency mode, according to a different or second hopping sequence. Herein, node y can use a channel from a second hopping

sequence to send data to node x to further reduce interference. Wherein, node y is an enhanced slave device for using a channel from a second hopping sequence and wherein the second hopping sequence is the repeated channel adaptive hopping sequence. Further, as illustrated in Fig. 1, at frequency hop h1 and t2, node y sends data to node x after receiving the RTR control packet. Herein, node y uses frequency h1 of the same hopping sequence as used by node x to send RTR control packet. Therefore, node y is a legacy slave device.”

Examiner is mis-reading the limitation in the claims of the repeated channel adaptive hopping sequence if the slave device is an enhanced slave device or a channel from the original hopping sequence if the slave device is a legacy slave device. Applicant’s respectfully submit that a correct interpretation of the pertinent paragraph of Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al. is that in multi-frequency mode, according to a different (or second) hopping sequence cannot be the repeated channel hopping sequence since Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al. makes it clear that that different (or second) hopping sequence is distinctly different from the original hopping sequence. Applicants have amended the claims further to stress that the repeated channel hopping sequence is derived from the original hopping sequence. See paragraph [0070].

Applicants have also amended the claims to have the limitations that polling or handshaking is not used. In Garcia et al., the embodiment shows Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and [0063 – 0065] that any device can poll its neighbor and then initiate data transfer. In the embodiment of the invention recited by the amended claims only the master can initiate transfers.

A further limitation has been added that, wherein, at any one time instant, only a single device can be transmitting within the network. In Garcia et al., multiple devices will be transmitting at the same time (even though potentially on different frequencies).

In the instant application, only a single device can be transmitting at any given time and across all frequencies. This is distinct difference from Garcia et al.

. In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

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